है। राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति, 1993 का मूल उद्देश्य देश में खनिज संपदा का पता लगाने के लिए गवेषण करना है। राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति, 1993 के अंतर्गत केन्द्र सरकार ने खनिज क्षेत्र में निजी क्षेत्र निवेशों और आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कानून में संशोधन करने के साथ-साथ अन्य अनेक कदम उठाए हैं। सरकार ने निजी क्षेत्र निवेश के माध्यम से हवाई सर्वेक्षण के लिए बड़े क्षेत्र की अनुमति देने के लिए दिशा-निर्देश भी जारी किए हैं।

Surveys for Diamond Deposits

994. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has confirmed that diamond deposits were found in Bastar district recently;

(b) the establishment quantity of these deposits;

(c) whether samples of diamonds have been sent for laboratory testing;

(d) if so, the results thereof;

(e) whether surveys in other areas have been conducted, if so, the names of areas and the results of the surveys;

(f) the estimated commercial value of the reserves; and

(g) whether there is any plan to give mining rights to private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Geological Survey of India has not confirmed any diamond deposit in Baster district recently.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

(e) Investigation for diamond has been carried out in the south-eastern part of Raipur district during Field Seasons 1992—94 and five kimberlite pipes, the source rocks for diamond, have been located in Bahradih-Payalikhand area out of which three pipes are found to be diamond bearing. In Raigarh district prospecting work is being carried out since 1993-94 and incidences of diamond have been noted in three streams of IB, Maini and Manda. GSI had also conducted surveys for diamond and kimberlite/lamporite, the possible source rock of diamond in parts of Panna, diamond belt in Panna and adjoining Satna, Chattarpur Sagar and Damoh districts and in Rajpur and Raigarh districts of Madhya Pradesh. During the eighties, under the National Diamond Project, GSI carried out assessment of the Kimberlite pipes and conglomerates in the Panna diamond belt.

(f) Question does not arise as no assessment of diamond reserve and grade has been made by GSI.

(g) No prospecting licences have been granted to any party in the public or private sector in Madhya Pradesh.

External commercial borrowing by SAIL

995. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has forwarded its request to the Union Finance Ministry to go in for more external commercial borrowing for its capital expenditure programme in the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the internal resources proposed to be tapped;

(c) the growth of GDP planned; and

(d) the reaction of Government to the plan submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The National Development Council (NDC) has resolved to adopt the growth rate of 7% per annum for the 9th Plan. SAIL proposes to invest about Rs. 15,000 crores on capital schemes during the 9th Plan period depending upon techno-economic feasibility of individual schemes. It is estimated that SAIL would internally generate about Rs. 10,200 crores (gross) and the balance would be raised from domestic or international capital market depending upon the market conditions prevailing at the time of actual raising of funds and regulatory approvals available to the company. Government have yet to approve the SAIL's 9th Five Year Plan.